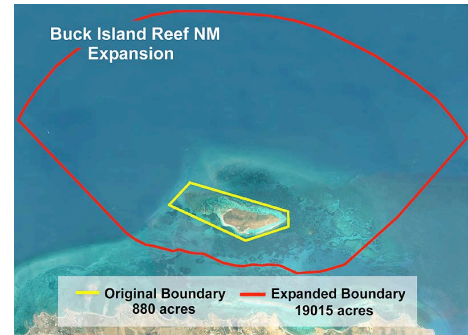


Buck Island Reef National Monument



Monument Expansion Fact Sheet

On January 17, 2001, under the U.S. Coral Reef Initiative, Buck Island Reef NM was expanded from 880 to 19,015 acres by Presidential Proclamation, adding extensive marine resources to the Monument.



Newly Captured Habitats

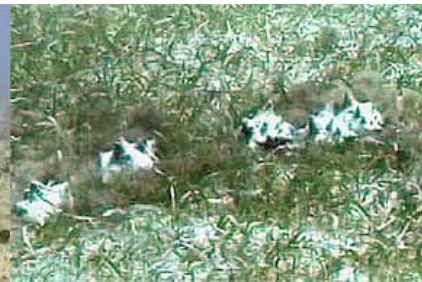
- Buck Island Bar elkhorn coral “table reef” (Figure 1)
- Colonized “pavement” hard bottom (Figure 2)
- Extensive seagrass beds with associated patch reefs (Figure 3)
- Unique elkhorn coral “haystack” patch reefs
- Sand communities and algal plains
- “Spur and groove” coral formation
- Shelf edge and deep reef habitat
- Pelagic waters/oceanic habitat



Elkhorn Coral Reef



High Diversity Patch Reef



Conch in deep Sea Grass

BUIS Proclamation

- Prohibition of all extractive uses
- Anchoring only in deep sand bottom off West Beach
- Establishment of a Vessel Management Plan

Accommodations

- Continue to provide for recreation including concession operations, sailing, snorkeling, SCUBA diving, motor-boating, windsurfing, sunbathing, and hiking
- Moorings installed at popular recreational areas
- Special permitted activities: sailing regattas and marathon swims

Shared Stewardship and Benefits to Local Community

- Enjoyment, education and inspiration for our and future generations
- Healthy fish population that will act as nursery for St. Croix fishery (Fishing Forever)
- Healthy ecosystem that will
 - stimulate (eco-) tourism and provide recreational opportunities
 - address life history requirements of marine organisms